Applicants
EXHIBIT NO. 61
C. BACHAND

SOUTH SON SON

September 16th, 2005

RE: Application for Party Status EL05-022

Dear Ms. Bonrud,

I am a South Dakota resident registered to vote in Minnehaha County. I also have numerous family members and own a home and agricultural land in Big Stone County, Minnesota, hence my interest in the matter of the application by Otter Tail Power Company on behalf of Big Stone II Co-Owners for an Energy Conversion Facility Permit for the construction of the Big Stone II Project.

My contact information follows. Should you need anything else in this matter please contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Stueve

SD Mary Jo Stueve

196 E 6th ST #401

Sioux Falls SD 57104

(H) 605-332-3667

(W) 605-978-9196

MN Mary Jo Stueve

518 Saint Joseph Ave

PO Box 308

Graceville MN 56240

(C) 612-619-1648

E-MAIL mj stueve@hotmail.com, mjstueve@cleanwater.org

## BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF THE COMPANY ON THE CONVERSION FACILITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE STONE II PROJECT	BEHALF FOR AN PERMIT	APPLIC ) ) ) )	ATION FOR PARTY CONTRIBUTION FOR PARTY CONTRIBUTION STATUS  EL05-022
Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and		(	Name of Applicant)
petitions the Public Utilities Commission to	o be granted	party status II	n the above-referenced
energy conversion facility permit procee	eding.		
	Signature of Date	ry lo Su of Applicant 6/200	ve
Subscribed and sworn to before me this <u>16th</u> day of <u>Sept.</u> , 2005.			
(SEAL)	Notary Pub	lian L  blic  t Sioux	
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NOTE:

Consistent with SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, this application must be filed with the Public Utilities Commission within 60 days from the date Otter Tail Power Company's application was filed. The facility application was filed July 21, 2005. Therefore, this Application for Party Status form must be filed in the Commission's offices on or before September 19, 2005.

My Commission expires WILLIAM L. HOBSON MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JUNE 22, 2010

Pam Bonrud
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501-5070